

December, 2024



Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



Next Meeting: **January 11, 2025 at 10am**

Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton

Chapter Officers

President—Brandon Story
Vice President—Ronnie Rencher
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry
Secretary, Annual Reports —
Mike Connelley
Treasurer—Chris Strauss
Asst Treasurer—Bill Rowell
Registrar— Mike Lester
Sgt at Arms—Billy Roussell, III
Color Guard — David Cook

Opportunities

1. **January 11, 2025, Denton Chapter meeting**
2. **March 8, 2025, Denton Chapter meeting**
3. **May 10, 2025, Denton Chapter meeting**
4. **SAR National Conference, July 2027**

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Fellow Compatriots-

In case you missed Brandon's email:

1) The District is gathering funds to contribute items to the Bonham VA clinic. They are asking for monetary donations so that they can buy whatever items Veterans may need this holiday season (Robes and items for a holiday party). Contact compatriot John Greer (johnlgreer@juno.com) to coordinate a personal donation to the District's cause. John will coordinate purchasing the items and transportation.

2) STARK Report. I received a note from state about completing our Chapter's annual report. Please keep any activities related to Veteran's affairs in mind and let Mike Connelley and myself know so that the data can be compiled and reported up to the state. Specific categories of interest are as follows:

(1) **Memorial Services/Funerals** of any Veteran. Please send name of deceased veteran, date, location, your role if any, and distance (r/t) traveled.

(2) **Personal donations** (check/cash) to a Veterans Service organization, such as Wounded Warriors, VFW, USO, Paralyzed Vets, Purple Heart, American Legion, Camp Hope, Tunnel for Towers, etc. I will NEED amount, date of gift, and organization that received your gift. The key to their qualification is: Is the organization's primary client the Veteran? If yes, it qualifies. For every mile driven/flown to a funeral, one point is credited. For every dollar donated, one point is credited.

(3) **Donations of clothing** (new or used) to a Veterans Service organization, such as VFW, American Legion, Texas Paralyzed, Disabled Texas Veterans or Disabled American Veterans. Others are acceptable as well, **BUT** they must have **Veterans as the Primary client**. Please indicate date donated, organization name, and amount paid for new clothing (men or women). If donating used clothing, then credit is based on 1/3 of original price. For each dollar value of clothing donated, one point is credited.

(4) **Wreaths Across America** - Purchase of 3 wreaths for Wreaths Across America will make a Chapter qualified at 50 points minimum for their Stark report.

(5) **Personal cost incurred** for Wreaths, Flowers, or Flags placed on the Graves of any Veteran throughout the year.

Note: For every dollar donated the Chapter is credited with one Point. For every mile driven or flown to a funeral, one point is credited.

Thanks for all you guys do - and please be sure to share those Wreaths Across America photos and data so we can brag about it in our newsletter and Facebook page!

Brandon Story, Denton Chapter President



National Society Sons of the American Revolution Social Media Information

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

Click on logo to go to
www.fastfunhistory.com



Revolutionary War Rarities Podcast

Laying Out Washington D.C.



It is well known that Washington D.C. was carved out of parts of Virginia and parts of Maryland, but do you know how this was done? This episode of Revolutionary War Rarities goes through the legislation that created the District of Columbia as well as the individual surveyors who laid out Washington D.C. and how they did it. Give it a watch today!

Be sure to "like" this video and to subscribe!

Sign up for SAR social media sites below:

[NSSAR Twitter/X](#)

[NSSAR Facebook](#)

[NSSAR Website](#)

SAR Denton Chapter Breakfast Social
November 2, 2024
at North Point Café in Denton

Good food and service, good conversation

See you next time!

SAR Denton
Chapter #23



Coffee
Social

Informal meet and greet social event with
SAR Compatriots. Dutch treat.

Location: North Point Cafe - 2000 West
University Drive in Denton

November 2 / 9 AM - 10:30 AM

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dentontsar>



Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour



August 16, 2024 saw the kick off this monumental Bicentennial celebration. The hundreds of events planned will trace Lafayette's footstep on the exact dates and in the exact order he followed on his tour of America as the "Guest of the Nation" between 1824 and 1825. Celebration and party at every stop.

An introductory video is here:

<https://vimeo.com/855470022>

Did your Patriot meet Lafayette on his tour? Check out the map on the Tour website <https://lafayette200.org/>, research your Patriot's life and/or family in 1824-1825. Was he still alive? Was he or his ancestors on the Tour route? Any family documentation for that period of time?

December 1824

December 1-4, 1824 — Washington D.C.
December 5-6, 1824 — Woodlawn, VA
December 7, 1824 — Arlington, VA
December 8-15 — Washington D.C.
December 16, 1824 — Bowie, MD
December 17-20, 1824 — Annapolis, MD
December 21-25, 1824 — Washington D.C.
December 26-28, 1824 — Baltimore, MD
December 29, 1824 — Lisbon, MD
December 29-30, 1824 — Frederick, Maryland
December 31, 1824 — Washington D.C.

Bench for Denton

SAR 250th Anniversary of America

Memorial Bench Program



STATUS:

1. Denton Memorial declined to bid.
2. I have asked provider Texas Gravestone Care to provide a draft drawing of a combined DAR/SAR bench, and an updated cost with delivery and installation.
3. I am working with the Denton DAR Bench project manager to develop a plan and a presentation.

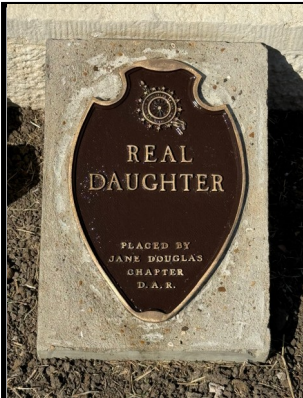
Next steps:

1. Continue to work with the Denton DAR project manager on plan & presentation.
2. Present plan to Denton SAR & DAR chapters.
3. Update plan and presentation based on feedback.
4. Present plan to Denton County contacts.
5. Gain approval to install bench

Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard



Denton SAR Color Guard marching in the Denton 4th of July parade.



Denton color guard members Todd Wilber and Christopher Strauss attended the "DAR Real Daughters" Grave ceremony in McKinney Saturday, October 19 in Continental uniform. The ceremony was for Nancy Barbee Mayes. They were two out of six Color Guard participants and thus provided significant Denton Chapter Color Guard representation.

Great job to both Todd and Chris.

David Cook



Join the Denton Chapter Color Guard

Members can participate individually or we can attend as a Color Guard unit representing the Denton SAR Chapter. New Color Guard members are welcome. Color guard members wanting to attend are to contact Color Guard Commander David Cook.

It is significant to note that several events are designated as National Events which earns 20 points toward national and state Color Guard medals.

“We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution at the national, state, and chapter levels. Accordingly, as we further the Patriotic, Historic, and Educational Goals of the SAR let us have fun, enjoy the comradely, and practice safety for yourself and others. Yours in Patriotism

K. Scott Collins National Society SAR Color Guard Commander”

David R. Cook
Denton Color Guard Commander
706-835-5910
davidcook1936@gmail.com



America 250 Decade Of The American Revolution



The National SAR has created this **Decade of the American Revolution** calendar to list Revolutionary War signature events each year that will be the focus of the NSSAR main celebration. Every State Society and all State Chapters should download the programs for the year and celebrate with us in your local area.

December 16, 2023 Boston Tea Party

August 14, 2024 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's arrival in the U.S. for his Tour

September 5, 2024 The First Continental Congress

2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord.

2026 Declaration of Independence

2027 Battle of Saratoga

2028 French Alliance

2029 Siege of Vincennes/Fort Sackville Battle of Kettle Creek

2030 Battle of Kings Mountain

2031 Siege of Yorktown 2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

Visit <https://america250sar.org/rd/> for details of each event.

Genealogical Information in Unexpected Places: Letters to Santa



A delightful childhood tradition is writing letters to Santa Claus. Children's letters are full of wishes for toys, candy, or other much-dreamed-of items. But mingled among the requests for dolls and firecrackers you might find a few gems of genealogical information.

In Denton each December, children would write their letters to Santa and send them to the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. The editor published the letters in the newspaper and then would "send a copy of the paper to the North Pole for Santa to read." The letters are both predictable and surprising.

Letters may include the child's name, age, and address, as well as information about their close family members. In one example from 1915, Annie Laura Cannon mentions that members of her household have scarlet fever.

"Dear Santa Claus: please bring me a bottle of perfume, a pretty doll, a little umbrella, a little sewing machine, a popcorn popper, a little piano, beauty pins, crochet hook, two packages of sparklers, oranges, apples, bananas, nuts of all kinds. Your little friend. P.S. – You need not bring us any candy. We are going to make our Christmas candy. We have the scarlet fever, and if you are afraid to come in, just leave the things on the front porch."

The children were aware of other people's hardships, often requesting gifts be sent to others that were in need. Benny Margaret Klepper wrote a letter in 1914 and mentions the death of one of her brothers and the name of an orphanage in Dallas.

"I want you to go to Buckner's Orphan Home and take all the little children something and be sure and go where they are playing war and take all the little children something. I have three brothers. Be sure and come to see them. One of my brothers is in heaven. Bring me something to go on his grave, and don't forget my mamma and papa, and if you have anything left, I would like a cow-girl suit and a sleepy doll. I go to Sunday school every Sunday and help mamma work. I thank you ever so much. You are so good, I know I will get all I ask for."

Occasionally people disappear from our family trees and leave no trace as to what happened to them. Sometimes these questions are never answered. But the letters to Santa could provide a clue. In Cate and Robert Maples' letter from in 1914 they refer to themselves as orphans, their mother dying "not long ago."

"We are two little orphan children. Our mamma is dead. She died not long ago. Send us anything you have for us. I guess Christmas will be dull with us so bring us some candy, fruit and nuts and anything else."

The "Letters to Santa," published in the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, from 1909 to 1923 have been indexed and transcribed and are available on the Denton Public Library's Genealogy Resources page under the [Newspapers](#) tab. The index lists: the name of the child who wrote the letter, their address (if given), the content of their letter, and the citation for the issue of the DRC in which it was printed.

As you research, remember to contact the institutions or organizations in the area where your ancestors lived. Libraries, societies, and archives may have resources like our Letters to Santa index containing genealogical gems for you.

Laura Douglas
Special Collections – Emily Fowler Central Library

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SARmagazine>



Also see the Denton Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dentontxsar>



Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites.

All of these communication devices take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com